

PATHOLOGICAL HISTOLOGY. By Robertson F. Ogilvie, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.(Ed.), F.R.S.E. Fifth Edition. (Pp. xi + 482; figs. 332, all in colour. 52s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1957.

THIS book, first published in 1940 and now appearing in the fifth edition, has been of great service to many medical students. The technical quality of the illustrations, which are all in colour, has considerably improved, and many are of such artistic merit that it seems that the skill of the blockmakers has largely overcome the difficulty of transferring the clarity and crispness of modern colour transparencies to paper.

A considerable amount of useful information is provided in the copious text, but despite this, the student is often left unaware of the crucial points which distinguish conditions which are histologically somewhat similar. These are often included in the text, but in a practical handbook might receive more selective emphasis.

It is stated that the original aim has gradually been broadened "to accommodate the post-graduate seeking more specialised knowledge." No atlas could hope to cater for the professional pathologist carrying responsibility for surgical diagnosis, but even items of post-graduate interest, if they are to be useful, probably merit more extended treatment and probably require separate books. The section on gynaecological pathology is inadequate for M.R.C.O.G. candidates and the selection of material is not representative of hospital practice.

Some criticisms of detail might be made. The three pages on adamantinoma is excessive when there is no discussion of dental cysts. The two pages on diphtheritic myocarditis contrast with the somewhat similar coverage on rheumatic carditis and myocardial infarction, and no longer reflects the relative importance of the condition. The dogmatic recognition of malignant, as opposed to benign, hydatidiform moles completely fails to state a difficult diagnostic problem. Modern views on melanomata might receive attention. However, despite minor criticisms, there is no doubt that, for the medical student, this is an essential and valuable book.

J. E. M.

THE CYTOLOGY OF EFFUSIONS IN THE PLEURAL, PERICARDIAL AND PERITONEAL CAVITIES. By A. I. Spriggs, D.M.(Oxon), M.R.C.P. (Pp. vi + 71; figs. 40; plates 5, in colour. 42s.) London: Heinemann, 1957.

THE author claims that Romanowsky-stained films are superior to others for cell identification and that in many cases an opinion can be given "with the same degree of certainty as on a biopsy." The author gives criteria of malignancy, but observes, "None by itself is pathognomonic, and in practice conviction comes with experience and not with the enumeration of criteria." The excellent and carefully chosen illustrations will help anyone desirous of gaining this experience.

The author has based this report on his doctorate thesis and on additional cases and has, in all, examined 1,050 specimens from 636 cases. Of these 103 were from cases of malignant disease and in 73 malignant cells were found. No false positives were reported. His work is, therefore, of considerable value and diagnostic accuracy. As with all exfoliative cytology, the issue is not so much the value of the method under such conditions, but about its potential value and economic limitations in laboratories in general, where it would have to be entrusted to less experienced and less interested workers.

J. E. M.

THE ESSENTIALS OF PÆDIATRICS FOR NURSES. By I. Kessel, M.B., B.A., M.R.C.P.(Lond.), M.R.C.P.(Edin.). (Pp. xii + 213. 21s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1957.

THIS is an attractively produced volume which should appeal to nurses and those who lecture to them. Considering that it has been written in South Africa, it is reasonable to expect some emphasis on diseases which have little or no interest to nurses and doctors in the British Isles. For example, Kwashiorkor is described and beautifully illustrated; rickets is fully dealt with, but it is a disease which is now fortunately rare in this country. Not all pædiatricians will agree with the emphasis placed upon psychological disturbance in relation to enuresis. These minor criticisms, however, are overshadowed by the general excellence of the book.

F. M. B. A.